



Historical Highlights

Official Publication of the Sand Lake Historical Society

Volume 34, Number 3

Spring 2008

From the president

Greetings of springtime or nearly! Crocus blossoms cheer the garden view, and here is your *Historical Highlights* to enjoy. I value the hours and work required to produce the informative and entertaining newsletters. Glad to hear your positive remarks too! Thanks to the contributors to the article about "Prof" Stahlman.

Sand Lake Revisited and *Sand Lake*, pictorial history books of the Town of Sand Lake, are available through members of the Historical Society and will be available at the annual dinner meeting.

Our **annual meeting on May 13th** will be a family-style dinner at the Lakeview on Crystal Lake with fruit cup, turkey, roast beef, mashed potatoes dressing and gravy, glazed carrots, green beans, lemon meringue pie and beverage. Social time begins at 6:00 p.m. and dinner is at 6:30 p.m. Program of the evening features a presentation by Ned Pratt about Tiffany windows in Troy. The beauty of design, color and artistry will be viewed and described. He has expanded his itinerary to include stained glass windows in Sand Lake. Cost is \$18.00. *Please return the form elsewhere in this issue by May 1. For questions, contact Mary French 674-5710.*

Recent programs about the transformation of the Cotton House in Sand Lake, a project of Girl Scout Troop 181 and updates of Slow Jed's Mud House and Young's Pharmacy and General Store were followed by armorer Jeff Mann on April 8th.

Oral history will be the theme of **the June 10th meeting** that was cancelled in February with Edith Gundrum, a telephone operator for our first phone company, and Irene Chriss, who is compiling the memories of her life, especially in the Burden Lake area. The *Advertiser* carries notices of meetings. Look for the logo!

Spring cleaning may turn-up reports, records, "old" papers or artifacts of the Sand Lake Historical Society stored over the years. Please do not throw them away. The "old" papers may form a background for celebrating 35 years of the society in 2009. Would you bring those "old" papers or artifacts from your closet, attic or cellar to the meetings or contact me? Thank you in advance in appreciation. — *Nancy W. Davis, president (518-674-2742)*

Gifts of History

Now is an opportune time to obtain copies of *SAND LAKE REVISITED* for holiday gifts. The Historical Society realizes a 50% profit from their sales and receives a 10% royalty for sales in other venues. Copies are for sale at the Town Clerk's Office for the Society. You may also contact Mary French (674-5710) or send an order to Sand Lake Historical Society PO Box 492 West Sand Lake, NY 12196. (Order information is also available on our web site: <http://hometown.aol.com/sandlakehistory>.) Cost is \$21.50 (inc. tax) and \$3.00 shipping, for each copy. *SAND LAKE*, our first book, is available for \$20.50 (inc tax). The VHS or DVD of "A Journey by Postcard from Crooked Lake to West Sand Lake" is available for \$18.00 with postage \$1.75 for each copy. Robert J. Lilly's book *The Wyanants Kill: a small stream, but mighty* is available for \$16.20 (inc. tax).

Dues are due

The number after your name on this issue of *Historical Highlights* is your membership date. Dues are for the year June 1-May 31. If the number is 2008, you're due, and we thank you for renewing your membership on the form below. Not renewing will mean your subscription to *Historical Highlights* will stop. The membership (and annual dinner reservation) form may be found elsewhere in this issue.

Nominating committee reports

Nominating committee members Nancy W. Davis, Edith Gundrum and Gladys Larkin present the following persons for trustees: *Ross French* (reelect 2nd term), *Christy Carton*, *Judy Rowe*, *Patricia Robelotto*, *Jacqueline Tremont*, *Christine Kromau*, *Patricia Stevens* and *Rev. Dr. Robert Loesch*. Elections will be held at the annual meeting.

2012: Sand Lake Bicentennial!

Beginning the “construction” announced as the “ground floor” in February 2008 for the Town of Sand Lake Bicentennial is a “cellar” in planning. Committees are a goal. Approval of the request to the Sand Lake Town Board for the resolution to support this endeavor is also under way.

Encouraging is the response of persons who attended February and March meetings to hear historians Sharon Zankel of Brunswick and Sharon Klein of Berlin speak of Bicentennial celebrating in their towns. Thank you to the Sand Lake Town Library and librarian Mindy Fowler for use of the Kennedy Room; Judy Rowe, Sand Lake town historian for anecdotes and information; Mary French, vice-president of the Sand Lake Historical Society and Nancy Dunn for volunteering to do publicity; Fred Erickson for support and willingness to participate; Peter Stevens for saying “Yes” in response to the question, “Will you serve?” (on a committee) and others who agreed to take part as I have met along the way. The Sand Lake (SL) Garden Club, SL Kiwanis, SL Center for the Arts, SL Historical Society and SL Town Board each were represented. Town supervisor Steve Robelotto demonstrated support by attendance. Artist Randi Bentley presented an attractive silhouette for display as an example of a fundraising possibility. Our “construction” has room for “building” and room for “builders”!! The next meeting is **April 23rd** at the Kennedy Room 7 to 8 P.M. We are seeking a co-chair!! Thank you. — *Nancy W. Davis, chairperson*

PS. We are also looking for a house genealogist and/or a house historian for a workshop. Is it YOU? Or do you know someone who can do this?

Sand Lake history

Sand Lake history begins with the glaciers, which left deep cuts in the earth. As the ice melted, the deep cuts in the earth became lakes, ponds and streams, which in time to come would fuel the industrial revolution.

American Indians lived, fished and trapped in the geographic area that became Sand Lake. A site was found during the drought of 1933-34 in the dead water between Crooked Lake and Glass Lake. The rotted remains of logs driven into the soft ground and rings from other rotted stumps were still visible and thought to be from an Indian fishing village. Other Indian sites noted were on Oak Hill, under Burden Lake and on or near Totem Lodge.

Walt Teal and others told us of a trading post between Crooked Lake and DeNault’s Corners. It was later used as a barn until it collapsed about 1938. No deed is available noting it as an old trading post. So many deeds were lost during the 1911 Capitol fire. We have only bits and pieces about its history.

Fur trappers and traders were the first white men who trapped the lakes, ponds and streams. One account noted

beaver, otter, mink, and muskrats were trapped and fox, lynx, and bear were a few of the fur-bearing animals hunted.

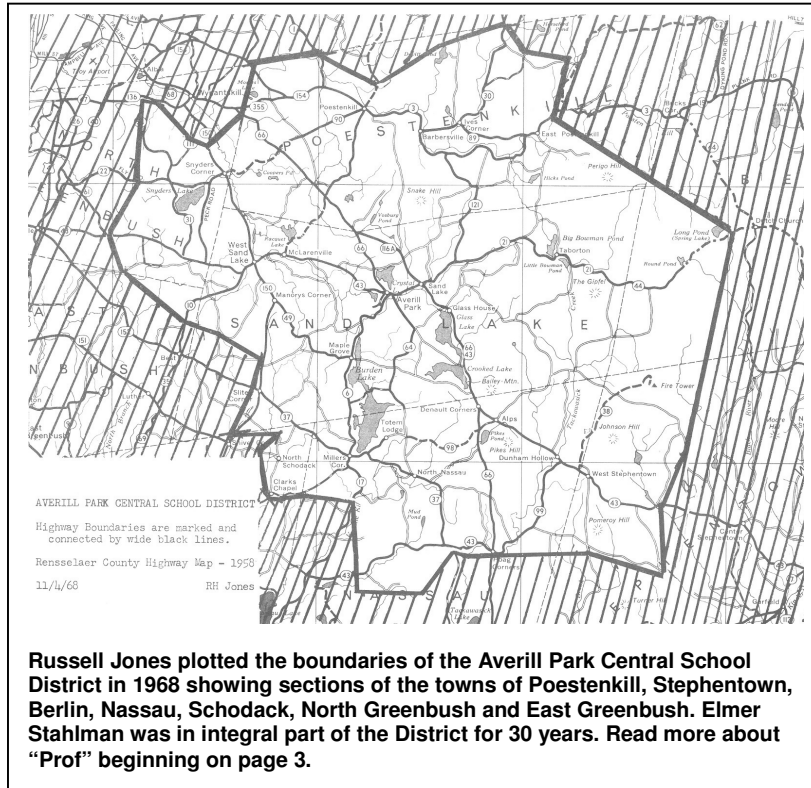
Boats landing with provisions for Fort Orange loaded their cargo with bales of fur for the return trip. Buckskins were used as trade. You could get a kettle or blanket for so many buckskins. Later the dollar bill got to be called a buck.

A dugout canoe was found in Glass Lake. It had been on display with the Indian exhibit in the “old” State Museum. It is now in storage.

Sand Lake did not become a town until 1812. Before that it was part of the Van Rensselaer Patroonship of Albany County until 1790. When

Rensselaer County was formed, it was part of Stephentown. Stephentown was divided in 1806 and it was now part of Berlin. Then in 1812 that area was divided and part of it became the Town of Sand Lake. In 1848 the final division was made with the towns of Poestenkill and Sand Lake acquiring the boundaries we know today.

We will have another installment of Sand Lake history in the next *Historical Highlights*. — *Judy Rowe*



SLHS on the Internet

Just a reminder that we’re on the Internet at:

<http://members.aol.com/sandlakehistory/>

“Prof” Elmer Stahlman

In school circles Elmer Stahlman was known as “Prof.” He was raised on the Stahlman Farms, which were noted for their apples. In a 1990 interview, printed in the Summer 1996 *New York Folk Lore Newsletter*, he recalled the following: “I think it was 1917. I was a junior in high school (I attended Valatie High School). And I disliked farm work very much. But I did a lot of it. I said to my mother, ‘Mom, I hate this haying...I want to put up a table under the maple tree and put out some fruit and vegetables. I think I could sell it.’” This was the beginning of many fruit stands along Route 9, and some expanded into large cold storage for fruit, vegetables and cider.

After Valatie High School he received his Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees from the New York State College for Teachers in Albany (now the University at Albany).

The publication *First Fifty Years – Averill Park Central School District 1929 – 1979* celebrated the school district’s Golden Jubilee of consolidation into a central system of education. Elmer Stahlman’s authorship of the first 30 years chronicled his role as the key player during that time. Indeed as we recap the events during his tenure as principal and supervising principal, the account is his legacy of progress and expansion from a rural one-room school system to building a sound foundation for a modern school system with its excellent reputation of educational programs and building facilities.

The Central Rural School Law of 1925 provided rewards of ¼ of the cost of the building and ½ of the transportation cost for rural districts that would merge and form a suitable central school district. As Elmer termed it: “supporters called the rewards, incentives; opponents called it bribery.” Among the forward-minded persons spearheading the formation of a central school district in Averill Park were general practitioner Dr. Elmer Reichard, president and general manager of Faith Mills William Mahony, and general manager of Huyck Felt Mills J. Eugene Woodruff. The vote was 92 affirmative and 11 negative votes to organize a central school district and establish a central school and 96 affirmative votes and 2 negative votes to erect a new school building and furnish the same at a cost not to exceed \$97,500.00.

There were five applicants for principal of the school district. District superintendent G. Everett Patrie recommended employing Elmer E. Stahlman because of his success as administrator of the Schodack Landing School, which had been a problem school. It was also thought that his German background would fit in with many of the persons in the Town of Sand Lake who were of German descent. His starting salary in 1929 was \$2,000.00.

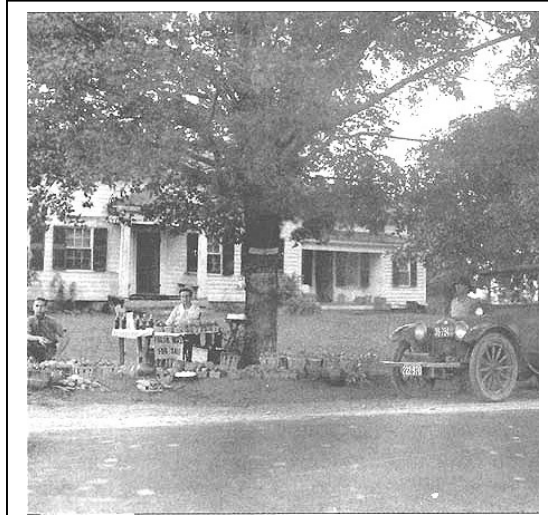
Classes were divided into grades 1&2, grades 3&4, and grades 5& 6, with grades 7-10 on the same class schedule for science and history, math and French, English and Latin and

business education. There were eight elementary grades and two years of high school.

As annexations continued to occur, West Sand Lake and Poestenkill retained elementary schools in their geographic areas, which were included in the Averill Park Central School District.

Many milestones occurred during the 30 years of Prof Stahlman’s tenure.

- In 1933, the Central School District was approved as a four-year high school. Also that year, a \$40,000 bond issue was approved to build an addition to the Central School.



Elmer Stahlman (far left) and his mother at their first fruit stand in 1917. They may have a customer, too! — photo from *New York Folk Lore Newsletter*, v17, n2, Summer 1996

- In 1935, the West Sand Lake School was erected.
- In 1937, a health program was initiated in the district, and a school nurse-teacher was hired two days per week.
- In 1939, all school personnel were required to have a thorough physical exam by their personal or school physician. That same year, the governors on all the buses were set at 30 mph. .
- Additions to the Averill Park Central and West Sand Lake Schools were made in 1939 – 1940.
- Rev. Mary Vining, pastor of Sand Lake Baptist Church, requested in 1940 that the Bible be placed on teachers’ desks as reference material. Legality was checked with the State Education Department, and the School Board directed that the

Gideon Society place Bibles on the teachers’ desks.

Also in 1940, there was a request that nonsectarian religious classes be held in the school. New York State law prohibited such use of public buildings

- In 1941, the Board of Education voted to close schools for four days because of the infantile paralysis epidemic.
- In 1942, space was provided in the first grade classroom for kindergarten.
- At this point in time World War II ensued. The school was used for registration of men of military age, the issuing of ration books and air raid drills were held. Both male and female faculty were drawn into the war effort. Principals in all schools were hard pressed to provide a teacher for each classroom. Housewives and other volunteers were pressed into service. Twelve former students lost their lives during the War.
- During this time, Prof Stahlman organized the “Boys’ Club” for weekly basketball games. About 40 boys played. Another highlight during those years was the championship baseball team of 1945, which Prof also coached and which included star player sophomore Elroy Face.
- In 1943, the new addition to the Central School had begun to settle and separate. The Board of Education ordered all school activities discontinued and that portion of the school to be evacuated. It had to be

repaired or demolished. A vote taken to demolish the building was later rescinded when a firm guaranteed that it could be repaired and stabilized for a cost not to exceed \$12,000. At the time of his writing in 1979, Stahlman said it was a wise vote because it had stood up well for the ensuing 34 years (*and another 29 years later, it still stands up well – Ed.*).

- Also in 1943, the Faith Mills Army-Navy Awards ceremony was held in the auditorium of the Central School.
- Tenure laws were passed for five or more years of service in 1947, with Stahlman and 23 eligible teachers receiving tenure. Also in 1947, the Odd Fellows Hall was rented for kindergarten classes.
- In 1949, to expand the Averill Park Central school site, 8.3 acres of land was purchased for \$4,000. The decision was against another addition to the Central School. Instead it was decided to build an elementary school, namely Miller Hill School. As well there were additions to the West Sand Lake School and Poestenkill School.
- In 1949, a pension plan for nonteaching staff became effective and, in 1950, 10 sick days were approved for nonteaching personnel.
- In 1951, the Averill Park School became the junior-senior high school building. With the increased space, expanded courses in the commerce department included office practice; graphic arts and printing were added in the general shops course. Also in 1951, a policy of opening with the pledge of allegiance and the Regents-suggested prayer as well as other nonsectarian prayers submitted by local clergy received approval.
- The first mention of teacher evaluation reports being completed and a copy placed in each teacher's permanent record was in 1953.



Sitting from left to right are Louis McCaw, Keith Adee, Principal Elmer Stahlman and Richard Henrikson, Standing is Sylvia Mellerid. (Note Keith Adee's memory of Prof Stahlman in article's text.)

- In 1954, when faculty sponsors were reluctant to chaperone the Washington, D.C., trip because of problems with previous trips, Prof Stahlman volunteered to accompany the senior class to D.C. That same year, the question of employing an unlicensed elementary principal was raised by the Bureau of Teacher Certification. Principal Stahlman went on record of "not employing an unknown quantity on the State's certified list in preference to a person whose

abilities and past performance were unquestioned." This was supported by the Board of Education and Superintendent Hereford Smith. Stahlman stated, "The State Education Department grudgingly consented to approve Mrs. Clark's appointment until completion of credits needed for full certification."



H.H. Butler applies mortar to the cornerstone in 1957 for the high school. Butler donated the land for the school. Others left to right in photo include Carl C. Beck, board member; John DeFreitas, board president; Elmer Stahlman, supervising principal; and Roland H. Trathen, board member.

- Beginning in 1954, there were negotiations of land for a new high school, which culminated in the laying of the cornerstone for the high school in 1957. H.H. Butler deeded 62 acres of land from the Butler estate valued at \$75,000 to the Averill Park Central School District junior – senior high school for payment of \$1.00. A bronze plaque recognizing this gift was placed in the main entrance lobby. The new Averill Park junior – senior high school was dedicated October 24, 1958.

From 1956 – 1959 Stahlman was supervising principal. However, Prof Stahlman did not feel like a "prof" during his supervising principal years. At the end of his 30 year tenure section he wrote, "In 1956, when the Board designated Stahlman as supervisory principal of the District, its members supposed that the move was a well-merited promotion for his long years of service to the District; but they did not know their man. Stahlman was basically an educator rather than an administrator. Trying to find an individual who is good at both jobs appears to be one of the great weaknesses of present-day school organization. Removal from the high school program, its students and his fine faculty was a body blow to his professional pride. Isolated from the mainstream of education, doomed to do the administrative chores of the District was for him "bitter fruit." He concluded thirty years was enough." He submitted his resignation on January 13, 1959 effective June 30, 1959.

Several anecdotes of Prof Stahlman's legendary relationships with pupils and faculty have been received.

- **Carmela Russo** was a math teacher for 10 years. She was hired in 1946 and was only 19 years old. She stated she never had problems with any of her students. At one point Mr. Stahlman said she didn't need to take

any extra courses. “She knew it all.” Miss Russo added that she enjoyed the wonderful apple pies Mrs. Stahlman made.

➤ **Audrey Trupia** remembers that spring day in 1952 when Mr. Stahlman drove her and a classmate to the Record Newspaper Office in Troy to have their picture taken to accompany an article he was submitting to the paper for publication. This was also the same time that Dr. Davenport was in the schools administering shots that were needed by the students for various reasons. Audrey needed to have some booster shots to complete her college application process. So on the way back to the high school, Mr. Stahlman stopped at the West Sand Lake Elementary School and waited while Audrey stood in line with the elementary kids to get the necessary shots. Don't believe a school principal would do that today.



Elmer Stahlman extended his interest in sports to forming a girls' basketball team. Left to right, rear row: Betty Hubbard, guard; Grace Teal, center; Catherine Burke, guard; Evelyn Miller, guard; and Mary feathers, center. Front row, Elmer Stahlman, manager; Dorothy Hack, forward; Mildred Sicley, guard; Elsie Robertson, captain and forward; Esther Kirchner, forward; and Henry Hubbard, coach.

➤ **Marilyn Zeph**, class of '52, recalls: It was the senior/faculty dinner perhaps at Glass Lake and I was a waitress for the affair. I remember spilling something in Mr. Stahlman's lap. A salad or dressing maybe. Anyway, I was so embarrassed, but he was very kind and told me not to be upset. And, he still let me graduate!

➤ **Sarah Plant**, class of '57, says: I have memories of Mr. Stahlman as to his being a very thoughtful person. Also I remember always going up to his office in my spare time and taking the mail and delivering it for his secretary. He always was pleased at the job I did. I remember that one of my class reunions, I walked up to him and had my hand over my name tag and said, “I bet you don't remember me.” He sure did remember me. Made me feel good.

➤ **Bruce Dayton**, class of '53, says: All I can think of is his unannounced visits to the boy's room while we were passing around a butt and having a mouth full of smoke when he asked us if we were smoking. He also coached JV baseball when I was a freshman. I'm sure folks can come up with a lot of stories.

➤ **Jean Miller**, class of '55, recalls: I just remember him as a very caring man. I can recall being sent to the principal's office by Miss Naylor. She was trying to get the class quieted down and she said to me, “Hey that's

enough!” And smarty me replied, “Hay is for horses. Jean is for me.” She immediately sent me to see Mr. Stahlman. He was so funny. He said to me, “Now, Miss Miller, what brings you to my office?” He could hardly keep a straight face when I told him what I said to Miss Naylor. He suggested I sit and think about how I should have answered her... and then finally when the period was almost over he suggested I go back to class and apologize to her. I really don't remember apologizing but I am assuming I did. She also remembers his secretary, a very lovely lady – a very obese woman as I recall. His office was so small

...now when I see the lavish principals' offices – he sure was shortchanged. I have a 91-year-old aunt who was one of his first secretaries – Hilda Brown Haff.

➤ **Keith Adee**, president of the class of 1952, shares this: The memories I have of Prof Stahlman were that he handled every situation with the same fairness. He would listen carefully to both sides of any issue, and then with a lot of thought he would do whatever would be the most apt to keep the situation from coming

up again.

I remember getting into a fight with a teacher, for what I thought was a good reason; and yet as I walked toward the Principal's office I knew I was going to catch the proverbial “Hell” that was always supposed to be a part of going before the Principal.

When I got there, he listened to my reasoning, he then sat quietly for several minutes, and then told me that he wanted me to come to his office after school, and he would drive me home. When we got my home, he came in and explained the whole matter to my Mother, and asked her to do what she thought would help me to control my anger, if that was what it was. He then said, in the same situation, he would have reacted the same way, and that he wanted her to know that he would be letting the teacher go.

I have never forgotten how different the meeting went with my Mother than the way I worried it would go, throughout that day, and all the way to my house. This was his way of teaching; he would give a person the time to think about their actions and what could have come from them.

From this one incident, I learned so much about how life usually goes, and that worrying was usually a waste of time. I have many good memories about this fine man, and how he always played fair, but was never taken for granted. He was the Principal, and no one

ever walked away, thinking they got the best of him. I hope this is helpful in understanding this caring individual that we called "Chrome Dome," when he wasn't close by, but always did it with a large degree of respect.

- **John Zweig** related a story told by his father, **Merrill Zweig**, who was also a school board member. His father was at a school Halloween Party. Merrill grabbed the arm of one of the boys who had a water pistol and the boy thought he was in trouble. Merrill asked the boy to fill it and bring it back to him, which he did. Merrill then took the pistol and with deadly aim put steam of water across Prof Stahlman's bald head. John added that Prof Stahlman later commented to his board member, "Good shot, Merrill."
- **Peter Weaver**, Class of '46 writes: While still at East Nassau School, I heard from older acquaintances what a reputation for strictness Averill Park High School was supposed to have under the guidance of Principal Elmer Stahlman. There was indeed firm supervision, but I found Mr. Stahlman to be a caring person who took a great interest in students. I know that he did, in me. He wrote letters on my behalf, let me make long-distance calls, and helped my family when we were going through a difficult time. I remember him especially as coach, yes coach of the school's baseball team the year that they took it all. The pitcher was Elroy Face, who struck out almost all opposing batters throughout the season. The fielding was strong whenever it was needed. Mr. Stahlman guided the team skillfully as it played the scheduled games, and then defeated Castleton at

Hawkins Stadium, home of the Class A Albany Senators. This championship was a factor in Elroy's brief time with the Senators, followed by years as forkball relief pitcher for the Pittsburgh Pirates. Meanwhile, the Class of '46 went on to conquer the world, and Mr. Stahlman continued his long career as principal and mentor in the building that is now the Sand Lake School.

- **The graduating class of 1948** gave Prof Stahlman a parting gift of a can of wax and a wash cloth to comb his hair. Whenever he met the graduates thereafter they might hear the comment that his wash cloth was getting thin or the wax was getting low.
- Another high school student related that one of the teachers picked on her to the point that she refused to go to school. Prof Stahlman made a home visit and talked to the student and her family. The student agreed to return to school the next day and meet with the teacher and Prof. The teacher seemed to be "walking on eggs." A good dialogue ensued and the relationship between the student and teacher improved to the point that she did very well in the class thereafter.
- **Jim Smyth** related this remembrance to **Nancy W. Davis**. "Well, I remember when I was called to the Office for misbehaving. Mr. Stahlman in his baritone voice would say, "Well, you are not from the district." Jim relates that he did not know what the statement meant but conjectured that continuing at Averill Park may have been at risk. They agreed on their recollection of the narrow stairway to the Office above the second floor with Miss Culver, the secretary, and



In the dark jacket is Captain Elroy Face, who was the star of the championship team in 1945. Several in this picture were also on that winning team. Seated, left to right, are Charles Warren, William McKenna, Basil Karpiak, Art Ferguson, Elroy Face, captain; Don Radz, Murray Raphael, Owen Selin and Leonard Pace. Rear row, left to right, E. E. Stahlman, co-coach; Gale Mosher, Bob Hogle, Jack Dreis, Bill Hannay, Jerry Miller, John Clark, Walter Fryer and Miss Ann Shaw, co-coach.

three or four chairs in the tiny office. Students who were academic achievers also were called to the Office. Nancy adds. "Mr. Stahlman's fairness, discretion and consideration are legendary. Bowling was a favorite pastime according to another of my classmates who tells that Mr. Stahlman bowled with his Dad."

An interview with Prof's sons, Mike and Jim Stahlman gives further interesting anecdotes. Mike tells the following.

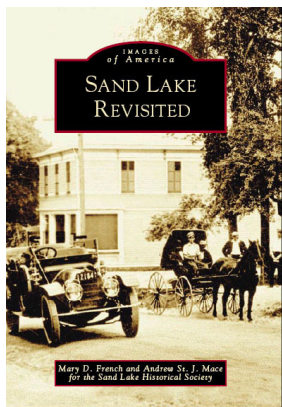
- "What did you do as principal, Pop?" "Whatever needed to be done – principal, teacher, bus driver, custodian, coach."
- "How come you have your office in the tower?" "Well, when kids come to see me they have to walk up the stairs and have time to reflect on their transgressions."
- "Where's the rubber hose I hear about?" It's in the lower drawer. You don't need to see it."
- "Will school be cancelled today, Pop?" (After checking with Walt Teal on Taborton Mountain or Town highway superintendent Albert Flaxmyer, the answer might come) "Walt says there's only a foot of snow. We'll get to the garage and get the chains on. No need to cancel school."
- Winning the baseball championship in 1945 with his star player sophomore Elroy Face was to become a lifetime thrill. Prof was there and spoke when the ball field at Butler Park was named for Elroy to honor the many baseball records he held. In Prof's senior years, Elroy was visiting high school friend Ray Diamond and Mike Stahlman. They went to visit Prof at Van Rensselaer Manor. When they walked in, Prof looked up and said, "I know that lad. Elroy, how are you?"
- In 1952-53, only 15 guys played on a Little League team. The others had to go home. Prof said, "All of the rest of you who want to play, be at the school on Saturday morning." He got the bases, bats and balls from the school and he was coach for those kids for two years.
- One of the girls wanted to take Industrial Arts. She talked to her parents and Principal Stahlman. Prof let her try it out even though she was the only girl in the class. He was always interested in having persons learn.
- One person related to Jim Stahlman that Prof said to him: "You've been up here 3 or 4 times. I have to cut you loose. You can't stay in school." He added "Your father had the smarts to kick me out. I enlisted in the Marine Corp and found out what the world was all about."

- Another story related to Jim was a boy who had been up to Prof's office before and had continued to "rough up" the classroom. Prof had him clean the rooms with the custodian after school for two hours on several days. His parents were supportive of this. This constructive punishment made an impression on the boy, and he felt that it made a difference in his life when he grew up.
- Mike goes on to relate that after completing his 30 years at Averill Park, his Dad was a professor and a supervisor of student teaching in elementary education at Russell Sage College for 17 years.
- Prof Stahlman had a claim to fame of his own when television station WTEN did a feature on him celebrating 65 consecutive years of never missing an opening day at the Saratoga Race Track. Mike said he enjoyed the thoroughbred horses and made a serious study of handicapping horses. As far as betting went, Mike classed his Dad as a \$2 bettor who was successful enough to bet 3 or 4 times a week.

The class of '55 began a scholarship fund in 1996 in honor of "Prof" Stahlman, "to be given to a graduating student of Averill Park Central High School, who, at Mr. Stahlman's request, will continue education in pursuit of teaching." It is ongoing and contributions may be made to: Elmer E. Stahlman Scholarship Fund, c/o Averill Park Central School, 146 Gettle Road, Averill Park, NY 12018. – *Mary French*



If you missed the April meeting, armorer Jeff Mann presented a fascinating program! Here he is in "full regalia."



<http://members.aol.com/sandlakehistory/>

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Historical Highlights

Mary French, Editor

Andrew Mace, Publisher



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Sand Lake Historical Society

Membership Application

Annual Dinner/Meeting

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Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

\$3 per student (13-22) _____ \$5 per individual _____ \$8 per family _____

Total enclosed: \$ _____

Please make checks payable to *Sand Lake Historical Society*. Mail to: Sand Lake Historical Society, Post Office Box 492, West Sand Lake, New York 12196